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12 MS. CONGDON: My name is Lois Congdon. Like  
13 Marci, I'm a member of Women's Action for New  
14 Directions. We've been studying nuclear issues  
15 for many years.

1 16 [I'd like to urge you to abandon the choice of  
17 Yucca Mountain as a repository for spent  
18 radioactive fuel and to look at other choices that  
19 are much safer, such such as sea bed repositories.  
20 Yucca Mountain is not a safe repository. It has  
21 33 fault lines within or close to the site. Your  
22 own office was damaged by a 5.6 earthquake in  
23 1992, six miles from the mountain, whereas in the  
24 sea bed that area has been safe from volcanic  
25 activity -- which is also around the Yucca

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1 Mountain site -- and earthquakes for 65 million  
2 years. And one quarter of the sea bed is in that  
3 state that it's far from any earthquake plates and  
4 any volcanic activity, and the mud at the bottom  
5 of the sea bed holds the radioactivity down in the  
6 bottom of the sea where it can't get out, whereas  
7 Yucca Mountain has cracks in it. [The latest  
8 studies have shown that it has radioactive  
9 chlorine in the water, which means that the water  
10 has seeped into the mountain in the last 30 years,  
11 since we've had atmospheric testing of nuclear  
12 weapons which produces the radioactive chlorine.  
13 And if any of those casks leak, which is very,  
14 very highly probable, the water would come through  
15 the mountain and contaminate the only source of  
16 water for the people in that area, the whole  
17 aquifer.]

3 [Also the plan to transport the waste an  
18 average of 2,000 miles from the reactors -- the  
19 average distance of the reactors to Yucca Mountain  
20 is 2,000 miles. And I didn't realize until tonight  
21 that they're taking a northern route along routes  
22 that are subject to snow and ice. I knew that  
23 Yucca Mountain was subject to snow and ice about  
24 eight months out of the year, a winding, narrow  
25

...3 1 mountain road where the trucks could easily fall  
2 off and the casks get opened or a diesel fire. ]  
3 [Your estimates do not suggest the temperature that  
6 4 a diesel fire causes, and it would burn more than  
5 the half an hour that you suggest. ] [Also it's my  
4... 6 understanding that a legal, undamaged cask puts  
7 out gamma rays equivalent to ten chest X-rays an  
8 hour at a distance of six feet; it's ten times  
9 that rate at the surface of it. How would you  
10 like to be stuck on I-85 like people were some  
11 nights ago for four to six hours next to a truck  
12 putting out these gamma rays at ten X-rays an  
13 hour? ]

14 We must have a better way of getting rid of  
1 15 this spent fuel at our power plants. [And I  
cont'd. 16 suggest that you go back to the studies that you  
17 had once before of the deep sea bed rather than  
5 18 Yucca Mountain. ] [Until then, I suggest you not  
19 license any nuclear power plants or renew the  
20 licenses of existing ones until you find a  
21 solution of dealing with their waste, and instead  
22 accelerate the studies of providing electricity  
23 that's non-nuclear, non-polluting, such as solar,  
24 wind, tides, gasohol and so on. ]

4 25 [One of your projections said that it would be  
cont'd.

1           likely -- your plan would be likely to increase  
2           the likelihood of cancer one cancer death per  
3           10,000 population. Well, that doesn't sound like  
4           much. But does that mean the 50 million people  
5           that are half a mile from the transportation  
6           routes? That's 50,000 cancer deaths. That's a  
7           major epidemic. Even one cancer death is too  
8           many. Are you going to bring your families near  
9           Yucca Mountain or near those transportation  
10          issues?

11                 MR. LAWSON: You've got 30 seconds.

12                 MS. CONGDON: I speak from experience of  
13           helping a family whose granddaughter was a small  
14           baby, and they lived near Three Mile Island at the  
15           time of the accident. And that child developed  
16           inoperable brain cancer at the age of four, and  
17           despite all the medical help that they could get  
18           17 years ago they had to watch her as she  
19           gradually lost control of different parts of her  
20           body and got more and more pain and died at the  
21           age of five. Are you willing to subject your  
22           family to that? Thank you.

23                 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you.

24                 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is  
25           Andrew Cook.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: I don't think he can make it.  
2 MR. LAWSON: Ed Hoffman?  
3 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.  
4 MR. LAWSON: Is Bob Fulkerson here? If not,  
5 the third speaker will be Ernie Chaput.

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